

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/036,897

Applicant(s)

ZABOROVSKY ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Courtney D. Fields

2137

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 07 May 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-9.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claim 2 has been cancelled.
2. Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 07 May 2007 have been fully considered and they are persuasive.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. **Claims 1 and 3-9** are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed toward a method and system for blocking unauthorized access and data exchange within a secure computer network using network screens (i.e. transparent or invisible firewalls). The network screen comprises a network interface for data exchange between the different components within the network. However, the network screen does not use network addresses for its functionality nor send data exchange using a physical address within the network interface to the external network. Independent claim 1 identifies the uniquely distinct features "**at least two network interfaces by which the network screen connects to the computer network for packets exchange between the network segments, wherein the software controls the process of packets commutation between the network interfaces based on a set of filtration rules, does not name logical addresses to the segments, does not send physical addresses to the computer network and at the same time the software permits transit delivery through the network interfaces only to those**

packets with headers that meet the filtration rules". The closest prior art, Vu (US Patent No. 5,623,601) discloses an apparatus and method for providing a secure gateway for communication and data exchanges between networks using a network screen (i.e. transparent firewall). The network screen advertises the device address to the network. However, either singularly or in combination, Vu fail to anticipate or render the claimed limitation wherein the software controls the process of packets based on a set of filtration rules, not naming logical addresses and not sending physical address to the computer network. The closest prior art, Abraham et al. (US Patent No. 5,983,270) discloses a method and apparatus for managing internetwork and intranetwork activity, wherein a network management program manages the communication of data packets. However, either singularly or in combination, Abraham et al. fail to anticipate or render the claimed limitation wherein the software controls the process of packets based on a set of filtration rules, not naming logical addresses and not sending physical address to the computer network. The closest prior art, Wesinger, Jr. et al. (US Patent No. 5,898,830) discloses a firewall for providing enhanced network security and user transparency. However, either singularly or in combination, Wesinger, Jr. et al. fail to anticipate or render the claimed limitation wherein the software controls the process of packets based on a set of filtration rules, not naming logical addresses and not sending physical address to the computer network.

6. Therefore, **claim 1** and the respective **dependent claims 3-9** are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Courtney D. Fields whose telephone number is 571-272-3871. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs. 6:00 - 4:00 pm; off every Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on 571-272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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July 17, 2007

Matthew Smithers

MATTHEW SMITHERS

PRIMARY EXAMINER

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